(b) if so, the details of specific provisions in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The draft National Environment Policy (NEP) addresses the issue of Pollution Abatement in its para 5.2.7. Specific provisions relating to the main causes of and proposed action programme for air, water and noise pollution are given in para 5.2.7(i), 5.2.7 (ii) and 5.2.7(iv) respectively.

Air Pollution

1657. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that air pollution levels in major cities including metros in India are above levels that are regarded as safe;

(b) whether it is also a fact that pollution levels in many major cities have been increasing over the last five years;

(c) if so, change in pollution level figures for five years for ten most polluted cities in India; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to bring back the air pollution levels within safe thresholds in the worst-affected cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) A decreasing trend has been observed in the Sulphur-dioxide (SO_2) levels in residential areas of many major cities. The trend in annual average concentration of Nitrogen-dioxide (NO_2) is fluctuating in most of the cities and levels of Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) are usually higher than the stipulated standards mainly due to natural dusty conditions;

(c) Based on the ambient air quality monitored under the National Ambient Air Quality Programme (NAAQM), Central Pollution Control Board, in coordination with the State Pollution Control Boards, has identified top ten cities on the basis of RSPM levels observed in the residential areas during 2003 given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below). A similar trend of air pollution is observed in these ten cities as that of major cities stated above.

(d) The Government has taken various steps to check air pollution levels within safe thresholds in the worst affected cities, which include—

- Notification of general and source specific emission standards.
- Enforcement of auto exhaust emission standards for new vehicles at manufacturing stage.
- Improved fuel quality.
- Use of beneficiated coal in the thermal power stations.
- Regular monitoring for compliance of environmental standards in 17 categories of industries. Legal action is taken in case of defaulting units.
- A road map up to 2010 has been developed to control vehicular pollution for both the new and in use vehicles.
- New emission norms for in-use vehicles have been introduced from October, 2004.

Statement

Top Ten Ranking of cities based on RSPM levels observed in residential areas during 2003

Rank	City	Annual Average Concentration of RSPM during 2003 (Microgramme per Cubic Metre)
1.	Jalandhar	245
2.	Raipur	240
3.	Ludhiana	218
4.	Faridabad	216
5.	Alwar	198
6.	Korba	183
7.	Kanpur	174

1	2	3
8.	Sholapur	170
9.	Pune	164
10.	Lucknow	161

Source: Data as reported by CPCB/SPCBs/NEERI/Agencies under NAMP.

Note: National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Residential Areas (Annual average) for SO_2, NO_2 and RSPM=60 microgramme per cubic metre.

Reduction of Forest Area of U.P. due to bifurcation of States

†1658 SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made a plan to declare certain areas as reserve forest area after identification of certain new areas;

(b) whether forest cover of Uttar Pradesh has been reduced due to inclusion of its certain forest area in Uttaranchal;

(c) Government's plan to compensate Uttar Pradesh in this regard; and

(d) The total amount allotted to Uttar Pradesh towards afforestation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Provision exists under Section 4 to 20 Indian Forest Act, 1927 to declare any identified land as reserved forest.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The following state funded and centrally sponsored schemes for afforestation are in operation in Uttar Pradesh:

- Social Forestry (State funded)
- Industrial Pulpwood Plantation (State funded)
- Plantation on degraded forest land (State funded)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.